



# County of Los Angeles **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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October 13, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ALL-HAZARD-MITIGATION PLAN (ALL AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve the County of Los Angeles All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO's) Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to forward the plan to the California Office of Emergency Services (OES), requesting an expedited review and that they forward the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval;
3. Delegate authority to the CAO to approve changes to the plan which may be requested by OES or FEMA and to approve future changes to mitigation strategies within the plan.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

FEMA is authorized through Federal legislation to provide funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), authorized in Public Law 106-390, is the latest legislation intended to strengthen hazard mitigation planning.

This plan was developed to comply with the new law and to demonstrate the County's high level of commitment to pre-disaster hazard mitigation programs. This is the first Countywide mitigation plan, and OEM is committed to keeping the plan up-to-date through an annual review beginning January 2006. The plan provides a valuable repository of information for departments preparing applications for mitigation grants.

DMA 2000 adds a new requirement that beginning on November 4, 2004, states and local governments must have an OES- and FEMA-approved mitigation plan in place prior to receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. The most significant impact is on post-disaster HMPG. After the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, communities in Los Angeles County received over \$600 million in post-disaster HMPG funds. Much of this money went to schools and hospitals, based on State and FEMA HMPG priorities, but in a future disaster, County programs could stand to lose HMPG funds, depending on the HMPG priorities established by OES and FEMA.

It is apparent that plan reviews at OES and FEMA will take a significant length of time, given that every local government in the nation is required to complete a plan. According to OES, if there is a major disaster affecting Los Angeles County before our plan is approved, FEMA will accelerate their plan review and work with the County and other affected local governments to ensure that the plan is approved in time to establish HMPG eligibility. The HMPG program does not become available until six to nine months after a major disaster.

Los Angeles County and most other governments in California, including the largest cities in Los Angeles County, were not able to comply with the November 4 deadline because of the complex requirements for these plans. The only local government in California with an approved plan is the city of Berkeley. The four largest cities in Los Angeles County are on about the same schedule as the County in their planning process and expect to submit their plans during the first week of November. The County Office of Education is on the same planning timeline as the County.

The FEMA rule required an extensive and complex planning process, which we began in September 2003, shortly after Federal and State guidance was received. The FEMA rule implementing this law requires that the plan meet specific requirements, including a public comment process, a review of existing plans, and extensive descriptions of all of the hazards that could affect the County. In order to comply with the extensive FEMA requirements, our plan is over 2000 pages long, and required a sustained twelve-month effort by our contractor and affected County departments. Mitigation programs in disaster-prone Los Angeles County are complex, and by the nature of our government services, the County plan is much longer and more complex than any other local government plan in California.

We are requesting that that your Board delegate approval for future plan updates to the CAO. This will ensure that we can keep the plan current as County mitigation programs are implemented. Although we expect OES and FEMA to approve this plan in this submission, either agency may request changes, and this delegated authority will ensure that we can make any required changes promptly.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This plan supports the following goals in the County Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1, "Service Excellence," and Goal 6, "Community Services," by supporting mitigation programs that will benefit our communities;
- Goal 3, "Organizational Effectiveness," by providing supporting materials for mitigation grant applications; and
- Goal 4, "Fiscal Responsibility," and Goal 8, "Public Safety," by establishing goals and priorities for mitigation projects, and ensuring eligibility for Federal hazard mitigation grants.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

This plan development was funded through Federal grants to support hazard mitigation planning and terrorism preparedness planning. OEM spent \$178,000 in grant funds to develop the plan through contracts with Dimension Unlimited, Inc., a company which specializes in hazard mitigation planning and grant writing.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

DMA 2000, Section 322, authorized in Public Law 106-390, requires that states and local governments must have a FEMA-approved mitigation plan in place in order to be eligible for HMGP funds.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This plan has no impact on current services or projects, but will provide a repository of information to assist departments in applying for future hazard mitigation grants.

### **CONCLUSION**

This plan was developed expressly for County government. Because of the short planning timeframe, the political complexity of the County, and the complexity of the planning process, we determined that it was not feasible to do a multi-jurisdictional plan. All other local governments must develop their own plans and submit them to OES and FEMA for approval.

OEM notified local cities, school districts, and special districts of this requirement and has provided resources to assist in the development of local plans. In addition, OEM coordinated OES training for local governments. County departments that provide contracted services to cities are supporting contract city mitigation planning efforts. OEM has provided information and tools to local governments.

An executive summary of the plan is attached to this letter. Questions regarding the Los Angeles County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan should be directed to Constance Perett, OEM Administrator at (323) 980-2261 or [cperett@lacoec.org](mailto:cperett@lacoec.org).

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:CP  
BB:jl

Attachments

- c: County Counsel
  - Emergency Management Council
  - Emergency Management Council Steering Committee
  - Emergency Management Council Subcommittee
  - Multi-Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee